

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSM-03 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 TRSE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-12
MCT-01 /107 W

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P R 011627Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO /SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3414
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION SINAI

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IS
SUBJECT: DMC PUTS GOVERNMENT ON NOTICE

REF: A) TEL AVIV 6710; B) TEL AVIV 6125

1. ON MAY 31 THE DMC COUNCIL ADOPTED BY A VOTE OF 36 TO 30 A RESOLUTION THREATENING TO LEAVE THE COALITION UNLESS THE GOVERNMENT ACTIVELY PURSUES PEACE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PARTY'S PRINCIPLES. THE TEXT OF THE RESOLUTION WAS DRAFTED LAST MONTH BY TRANSPORT MINISTER MEIR AMIT AND ENDORSED BY THE PARTY'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE. IT ARGUES THAT: ISRAEL'S POSITION SHOULD BE BASED "ONLY" LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ON SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS WHILE SAFEGUARDING THE JEWISH AND DEMOCRATIC CHARACTER OF THE STATE; THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT ENGAGE IN "ACTIVITIES LIKELY TO CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE OF MISTRUST" WHILE NEGOTIATIONS ARE UNDERWAY; AND A WEST BANK SOLUTION MUST NOT LEAD TO A SEPARATE PALESTINIAN STATE. THE FINAL CLAUSE STIPULATED THAT SHOULD THE GOVERNMENT VIOLATE THESE PRECEPTS, THE COUNCIL WILL CONSIDER WHETHER

TO CONTINUE PARTICIPATION IN THE COALITION.

2. IN THE COURSE OF THE DEBATE OVER THE RESOLUTION, THE GOVERNMENT'S SETTLEMENT ACTIVITIES CAME UNDER PARTICULARLY HEAVY FIRE. AMIT, JUST BACK FROM A U.S. VISIT, WAS ESPECIALLY SCATHING, DECLARING THAT HE FOUND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO DEFEND THE GOVERNMENT'S RECENT SETTLEMENT MOVES BEFORE AMERICAN AUDIENCES.

3. COMMENT: THE BIGGEST WINNER IN THIS AFFAIR WAS AMIT, WHO HAS SOLIDIFIED HIS NEWLY ESTABLISHED POSITION AS THE BALANCE-WHEEL IN THE PARTY AND WHO IS INCREASINGLY VIEWED AS THE ALTERNATIVE TO YADIN. MORE BROADLY, AS WE RECENTLY REPORTED IN REFTEL A, THERE IS INCREASING DMC RESTIVENESS WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S STAND ON PEACE NEGOTIATIONS. THIS MOVE BY THE DMC COUNCIL REFLECTS MORE OF THE SAME, AS WELL AS THE PARTY'S ATTEMPT TO STIFFEN YADIN'S STANCE IN THE CABINET. IT IS ALSO AN EFFORT TO REASSERT THE DMC'S POSITION IN THE COUNTRY. RECENT POLLS HAVE GIVEN THE PARTY AS LITTLE AS 3PCT OF THE ELECTORATE. YET THE RESOLUTION'S LANGUAGE IS HEDGED AND RELATIVELY RESTRAINED, AND WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THE DMC IS UNLIKELY TO LEAVE THE COALITION IN THE NEAR TERM--CERTAINLY NOT BEFORE THE ELECTION OF A NEW COUNCIL ON JUNE 28. ALL THE SAME, THIS ACTION IS AN INDICATION OF THE POLITICAL FERMENT WHICH IS AGAIN ON THE INCREASE HERE.

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